

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065406

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: BASE DISCUSSIONS: CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL REPORT ON  
BRIEFING OF HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS (LONG).  
OTHER REPORTS WILL FOLLOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

QUOTE

BRIEFING OF THE LONG SUBCOMMITTEE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
OF DEFENSE MORT ABRAMOWITZ, AND BRIGADIER GENERAL PAT  
GRAHAM OF THE JCS BRIEFED THE LONG SUBCOMMITTEE (HOUSE  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE) ON THE STATUS OF OUR PHILIPPINE  
BASE NEGOTIATIONS AND OUR PLANS FOR A BASE COMPENSATION  
PACKAGE. PRESENT WERE CHAIRMAN LONG AND CONGRESSMAN  
WILSON, YVONNE BURKE, ROYBAL, STOKES, MCHUGH, YOUNG, CONTE,  
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AND MRS. SMITH FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE AND BEDELL BY INVITA-  
TION. IN GENERAL, THE SUBCOMMITTEE WELCOMED THE OPPORTUN-  
ITY TO CONSULT IN ADVANCE ABOUT POSSIBLE PLANS FOR THE  
PHILIPPINE BASE NEGOTIATIONS AND EXPRESSED NO STRONG VIEWS  
ABOUT THE NATURE OR LEVEL OF THE COMPENSATION PACKAGE.

LONG BEGAN THE QUESTIONING BY INTERRUPTING PAT GRAHAM

AND ASKING WHY THE ADMINISTRATION FELT IT NECESSARY TO EXPLAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PHILIPPINE BASES. "IS ANYBODY SUGGESTING THAT WE GIVE UP THE BASES?" LONG ASKED RHETORICALLY. CONGRESSMAN MCHUGH INTERVENED TO SAY THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO SHOW THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BASES. CONGRESSMAN YOUNG DREW A PARALLEL WITH THE SITUATION AT GUANTANAMO BAY IN CUBA, INQUIRING WHETHER A NEW BASE AGREEMENT MIGHT NOT BE NECESSARY. ABRAMOWITZ NOTED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO CREATE A NEW AND IMPROVED CLIMATE OF THE OPERATION OF OUR BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES.

MOST OF THE QUESTIONING OCCURRED OVER THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF NEW BASE AGREEMENT, PARTICULARLY THE COMPENSATION PACKAGE. CONGRESSMAN LONG ASKED IF MARCOS DID NOT UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO GIVE A MULTI-YEAR COMMITMENT OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE. CONGRESSMAN WILSON ASKED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS WITH REGARD TO WHETHER THE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WOULD BE PART OF OUR TOTAL PACKAGE AND WHEN INFORMED IT WAS NOT, ASKED WHETHER WE WERE GIVING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES IN SPITE OF THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD, LARGELY BECAUSE OF OUR SECURITY INTERESTS IN THAT COUNTRY. HOLBROOKE NOTED THAT OUR AID PROGRAM WAS NOT LINKED TO THE BASES AND COULD BE DEFENDED ON ITS OWN RIGHTS AS A PROGRAM THAT BENEFITED THE NEEDIEST PEOPLE. BOTH CONGRESSMEN LONG AND YOUNG INDICATED THAT THEY ACCEPTED THE STRATEGIC IMPORT-

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ANCE OF THE PHILIPPINE BASES AND HAD NO PROBLEM WITH THE IDEA OF PAYING "RENTS" FOR THE BASES. LONG DID INDICATE THAT HE WAS SKEPTICAL THAT WE WOULD EVER GET REPAID THE FMS CREDIT WHICH WE MIGHT EXTEND TO THE PHILIPPINES.

YVONNE BURKE ASKED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS WITH REGARD TO DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED NEW BASE AGREEMENT. "WHAT," SHE ASKED, "WOULD HAPPEN IF WE WERE UNABLE TO GET A NEW BASE AGREEMENT?" (WE NOTED THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE UNDER THE OLD AGREEMENT, BUT THAT THE CLIMATE UNDER WHICH WE WOULD OPERATE WOULD, OF COURSE, BE MUCH WORSE.) "DID THE ADMINISTRATION ATTRIBUTE THE PILFERAGE TO THE LACK OF AN AGREEMENT?" (WE NOTED THAT THERE WOULD ALWAYS BE SOME PILFERAGE, BUT THAT THE SITUATION COULD NOT BE WORSE THAN IT WAS NOW AND IT WOULD PROBABLY BE MUCH BETTER WITH A NEW AGREEMENT.) MRS. BURKE ASKED IF WE WOULD NOT ACQUIRE SOME OF THE OPPROBRIUM OF THE MARCOS REGIME BY HAVING PHILIPPINE SECURITY GUARDS PATROLING OUR BASES. SHE ASKED FURTHER WHETHER WE HAD ANY PLANS FOR KICKING OUT SQUATTERS. FINALLY, MRS. BURKE RAISED SEVERAL QUESTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE EXIM LOAN TO BUILD A NUCLEAR PLANT SIX MILES FROM SUBIC BAY BASE AND ASKED WHAT INFORMATION THE

STATE DEPARTMENT HAD REGARDING PRESS STORIES THAT THE FILIPINOS WERE DISCUSSING WITH THE SOVIETS TAKING OVER THE NUCLEAR PLANT. (WE NOTED THAT WE BELIEVE THOSE PRESS STORIES TO BE UNTRUE.)

CONGRESSMAN MCHUGH WAS THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE TO EXPRESS DOUBTS ABOUT THE USE OF SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE AS PART OF THE COMPENSATION PACKAGE. MCHUGH INDICATED THAT HE CONSIDERED SSA AN "UNFORTUNATE USE" OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, THAT HE HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE USE OF IT IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THAT HE QUESTIONED ITS USE FOR THE PHILIPPINES. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE INDICATED THAT IF CONGRESS SHARED WITH CONGRESSMAN CONFIDENTIAL

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MCHUGH'S VIEWS, WE WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM SEEKING A DIFFERENT KIND OF ASSISTANCE FOR THE COMPENSATION PACKAGE.

AT THE CONCLUSION, CHAIRMAN LONG AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR HAVING BEEN CONSULTED AND INDICATED THAT THERE WAS NO "CONSENSUS" IN THE COMMITTEE. WHEN AND IF THE COMMITTEE REACHED A CONSENSUS, HE PROMISED TO INFORM THE DEPARTMENT. END QUOTE. VANCE

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